

APLS 201
Spring 2012
Office Hours: Fridays 2-4
and by appointment

Millies
steven.millies@sc.edu
803.641.3383
C-2 H&SS Bldg.

AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

TEXTS

American Government: Annual Editions 11/12, ed. Bruce Stinebrickner
The daily New York Times (subscription required)

OVERVIEW

This class will aim to acquaint students with the form and development of American government, its origins and its powers. More than that, students will leave this class familiar with how the various parts of the national government interact, and come to understand better their relationships with government.

This course fulfills the American institutions requirement toward graduation at USCA. USCA requires such a course because familiarity with the structures of American politics and government are the basic requirements for good citizenship and represent the least that our society should expect from college graduates. Accordingly, students should expect to take from this class: (1) the ability to recognize the basic issues in American government; (2) recognition of the basic differences between liberal and conservative political opinions; (3) an understanding of the history of American government; (4) familiarity with formal and informal political institutions, such as parties and the press; (5) ability to identify and describe the key functions of the three branches of government; and, (6) the ability to connect events in the news to our course material.

REQUIREMENTS

Professionalism and Participation	15%
Short Essays	15%
Mid-Term Examination	15%
Research Paper	20%
Research Presentation	20%
Final Examination	<u>15%</u>
	100%

Absence and Tardiness

Unexcused absences from class are intolerable. “When students enroll in a particular course, they obligate themselves for all the work which may be assigned. Punctual and regular attendance is vital to the discharge of this obligation” (*USCA Faculty Manual*, 4.1-5). The great variety of circumstances in students’ lives make it impractical to penalize all unexcused absences. However, the instructor bears no obligation to offer assistance, make-up opportunities, additional time to complete work, or any other accommodation to students who have missed class or have been late to class without an excuse. Any student whose tardy arrival to class creates a disruption will be asked by the instructor to remove himself/herself.

An excused absence must be documented, and documentation must be presented promptly to the instructor in order that an absence may be excused. Absences may be excused for the following reasons: documented incapacitating illness, official representation of the University, death of a close relative, religious holidays, or jury duty. Student athletes should take note: absence from class due to a scheduled athletic event is excused. Athletes who expect to miss class due to an athletic event must present a *paper copy* of their schedule to the instructor at the beginning of the semester with their name on the schedule. For those scheduled events, as for any other anticipated absences, assignments, quizzes, and examinations must be completed before the absence. Make-ups and late submissions will not be allowed in these cases. For play-offs and other unanticipated athletic absences, students must submit *written* notice from a University official to the instructor as quickly as possible. In such cases, where scheduling may leave no alternative, late assignments and make-ups may be permitted on a case-by-case basis.

Professionalism and Participation

The Professionalism and Participation portion of your course grade is based solely on the instructor’s subjective impression of your demeanor toward class and your contributions to our classroom discussion. Excessive absences and tardinesses will affect the Professionalism and Participation grade, since one cannot participate or behave professionally if one is not present.

Considerations relevant to Professionalism include classroom participation, but also can be found described below at Student Department.

Course Readings

Students must in all cases complete assigned readings for the date they will be discussed in class, and must come prepared to discuss the readings at each class meeting.

Examinations

This course will offer a mid-term examination and a final examination. Both examinations will consist of essay questions, only. Each examination will require a new, large (8”x10”) USCA Bluebook (available in the USCA Bookstore for 25¢ apiece). The matter for each examination will be addressed in the class period preceding each exam. Any material from the text, lectures, or the *Times* covered during the exam period may appear on the examination.

All final examinations must be taken according to the published University schedule.

Short Essays

Students must complete thirteen short essays during the semester. Due dates are found on the course calendar, below.

Essays must be submitted in the short essay format described on the course webpage.

Each essay must be no longer than 350 words.

Essays which use more than one page must be stapled in the top-left corner, or they will not be graded.

For each essay, students will select and respond thoughtfully to one of the articles assigned for that week in the Stinebrickner text. Students may **not** write on the same Stinebrickner article more than once in a semester.

Research Projects

Students must design an individual research project. The project will have a written component: a 5-7 page paper that cites to authoritative sources, due in class on **March 16**, and; the project will require an oral presentation to be made at an assigned time **during the week of April 16**.

During the week of January 29, students will receive a list of research project topics. Topics will be offered in the form of a question. The goal of each research project will be to answer one question persuasively, based on research from authoritative sources. All research must be cited (see Writing Assignments and Academic Dishonesty, below), and research papers must be submitted using the Chicago Manual of Style and the Style Sheet found on the course webpage. All research papers must be stapled in the top-left corner.

Research papers will be returned with comments before April 9. Using those comments, students must prepare a 5-minute oral presentation for class in which they will present their findings. Presentation times will be assigned at a later date.

POLICIES

Writing Assignments

Students are advised to take great care with their writing, and to be very sure that the draft they submit represents work they wish to be graded. For writers of every skill level this means that the work has been through more than one draft and that at least one other person has proofread it for punctuation, stylistic, spelling, and grammar errors. Any errors of these types found in a paper will be presumed by the instructor to reflect a lack of care in preparing the assignment, and in outrageous cases the paper will not be graded. A great deal of assistance is available to student writers in the Writing Room, and every student would be wise to take advantage of this service.

ANY words that do not reflect the student's own original work must be indicated appropriately (i.e., quotation marks or a block quote) and cited to their source – even if the quotation is only one word. **ALL** failures to cite properly the work of other authors will be dealt with in accordance with USCA policy. See the section below concerning Academic Dishonesty.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty in any form is the most serious offense you can commit as a student. All students are expected to observe the USCA Honor Code, as defined in the Student Handbook.

According to the 2011-2012 edition of the USCA Student Handbook, academic dishonesty includes “cheating, lying, bribery and plagiarism.” The Handbook further provides that, a student “may receive a 0 or F on the assignment or requirement for which the violation occurred,” or “may receive an F in the course or requirement for which the violation occurred.” Please refer to the USCA Student Handbook (available online at <http://www.usca.edu/studenthandbook>) for more specific information.

Grade Scale

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A	100-93
B+	92-89
B	88-85
C+	84-80
C	79-76
D+	75-72
D	71-70
F	69-0

Students with Disabilities

If you have a physical, psychological, and/or learning disability which might affect your performance in this class, please contact the Office of Disability Services, 126A B&E, (803) 641-3609, as soon as possible. The Disability Services Office will determine appropriate accommodations based on medical documentation.

Make-Up Assignments and Examinations

All assignments and examinations must be completed on-time. Late assignments may be accepted on a case-by-case basis, at the instructor's discretion. If late assignments are accepted, they will be deducted one letter grade each day they are late, beginning at the end of the class in which they were due (i.e., a letter grade is lost at the end of the class period in which the assignment was due, if it has not yet been received).

Exceptions will be made only in the case of an excused absence (see the standards for an excused absence above, under Absence and Tardiness). When an excused absence permits an assignment to be submitted late or an examination to be made up, the instructor will inform the student of the appropriate time for submission of the assignment or make-up of the examination.

Junior Writing Portfolio Requirement

Please remember that the written work that you produce in this class can be included in your rising junior writing portfolio. For further information on the portfolio requirement please consult your USCA Undergraduate and Graduate Studies Bulletin, or visit Dr. Lynn Rhodes, Director of Writing Assessment.

Student Department

The classroom is a professional environment. Your instructor will dress professionally for each class meeting. Also, he will address students in a professional manner (Mr. X, or Ms. Y). Students who attend USC-Aiken with the hope to join the professional world are *strongly encouraged* to look on their time in the classroom as a time to practice appropriate professional behavior.

In practice, this means speaking in appropriate ways and at appropriate times to the instructor and fellow students. Crude language or other manifestations of disrespect never are appropriate. It also means addressing your instructor in the correct way: at USC-Aiken, instructors who hold the Ph.D. or other doctoral degree should be addressed as "Dr. {Last

Name}” or “Professor {Last Name}.” All other instructors who do not hold a doctoral degree should be addressed as “Professor {Last Name}.”

Most of all, students are *strongly encouraged* to think about presenting themselves professionally when they dress for class. Baseball caps, flip-flops, dirty t-shirts, and pajamas are not suited for a professional environment. Outrageous extremes in student dress (*e.g.* excessively revealing clothing, pungently-unwashed clothing, etc.) that cause or may cause disruptions in the classroom may be grounds for removal from the classroom under University policy.

Policy for Portable Electronic Devices

The use of any portable electronic devices, including cell phones, pagers, MP3 players, iPods, etc., during class is not allowed for any reason unless prior approval has been given to a student by the instructor, or unless required for the course. If you are planning to have any of these devices in class, they must be turned off and stowed away for the duration of the class period.

Please be aware that, under University policy, it is the instructor’s right to remove from the classroom any student who disrupts or disturbs the proceeding of the class. Disruption of the class includes but is not limited to the use of any portable electronic devices, including cell phones, MP3 players, iPods, etc., unless prior approval has been given to a student or unless required for the course. If the student who has been ejected causes similar disturbances in subsequent meetings of the class, he/she may be denied admittance to the class for the remainder of the semester and assigned a grade of F.

Because portable electronic devices, both for their capacities for data storage and for their ability to communicate with others outside the classroom, pose undeniable opportunities for academic dishonesty, **any use of portable electronic devices as defined above in this section during a quiz or examination will be construed as evidence of academic dishonesty**, and will invoke appropriate procedures and penalties under University policy. **ALL** portable electronic devices must be switched to the **OFF** (not silent, or vibrate) positions during exams.

READINGS AND CLASS CALENDAR

<u>January 9</u>	Introduction and Course Overview No Readings
<u>Week of Jan. 9</u>	Lectures: The American Political Tradition Stinebrickner, Articles 1, 2, 3, 4 Lecture on Wednesday; <i>New York Times</i> current events discussion on Friday; Short Essay due on Friday
<u>January 13</u>	Last Day to Add or Drop Without Record
<u>January 16</u>	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY—CLASS WILL NOT MEET

<u>Week of Jan. 16</u>	Lectures: The Constitution Stinebrickner, Articles 11, 12, 13, 14 Lecture on Wednesday; <i>New York Times</i> current events discussion on Friday; Short Essay due on Friday
<u>Week of Jan. 23</u>	Lectures: The Legislative Branch Stinebrickner, Articles 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26 Lectures on Monday and Wednesday; <i>New York Times</i> current events discussion on Friday; Short Essay due on Friday
<u>Week of Jan. 30</u>	Lectures: The Executive Branch Stinebrickner, Articles 7, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 27, 29, 30, 31 Lectures on Monday and Wednesday; <i>New York Times</i> current events discussion on Friday; Short Essay due on Friday
<u>Week of Feb. 6</u>	Lectures: The Judicial Branch Stinebrickner, Articles 12, 13, 14, 27, 28 Lectures on Monday and Wednesday; <i>New York Times</i> current events discussion on Friday; Short Essay due on Friday
<u>Week of Feb. 13</u>	Lectures: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Stinebrickner, Articles 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 Lectures on Monday and Wednesday; <i>New York Times</i> current events discussion on Friday; Short Essay due on Friday
<u>Week of Feb. 20</u>	Lectures: Press and Media Stinebrickner, Articles 42, 43, 44, 45 Lectures on Monday and Wednesday; <i>New York Times</i> current events discussion on Friday; Short Essay due on Friday
<u>Week of Feb. 27</u>	Lectures: Interest Groups and Public Opinion Stinebrickner, Articles 10, 25, 34, 38, 39, 40, 41 Lectures on Monday and Wednesday; <i>New York Times</i> current events discussion on Friday; Short Essay due on Friday
<u>March 2</u>	Last Day to Withdraw Without Receiving Grade of WF
<u>Week of Mar. 5</u>	SPRING BREAK—CLASS WILL NOT MEET
<u>March 12</u>	Mid-Term Examination
<u>Week of Mar. 12</u>	Lectures: Political Parties Stinebrickner, Articles 32, 33, 34, 37 Lectures on Monday and Wednesday; <i>New York Times</i> current events discussion on Friday; Short Essay due on Friday
<u>March 16</u>	Research Paper Due

<u>Week of Mar. 19</u>	Lectures: Nominations and Elections Stinebrickner, Articles 13, 32, 35, 36, 37 Lectures on Monday and Wednesday; <i>New York Times</i> current events discussion on Friday; Short Essay due on Friday
<u>Week of Mar. 26</u>	Lectures: Domestic Policy and Social Issues Stinebrickner, Articles 46, 47, 50, 51, 53, 55 Lectures on Monday and Wednesday; <i>New York Times</i> current events discussion on Friday; Short Essay due on Friday
<u>Week of Apr. 2</u>	Lectures: Economic Policy Stinebrickner, Articles 5, 6, 8, 48, 49, 52 Lectures on Monday and Wednesday; <i>New York Times</i> current events discussion on Friday; Short Essay due on Friday
<u>Week of Apr. 9</u>	Lectures: Foreign Policy Stinebrickner, Articles 17, 23, 53, 54, 55 Lectures on Monday and Wednesday; <i>New York Times</i> current events discussion on Friday; Short Essay due on Friday
<u>Week of Apr. 16</u>	5-Minute Research Presentations
<u>April 23</u>	Last Day of Classes—Discussion of Final Exam

*****THE FOREGOING CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE*****

**CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS
WITH AS MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE AS CIRCUMSTANCES WILL PERMIT**